

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 9 are amended. The courtesies extended to Applicants' representative by Examiner Rahmjoo and Supervisory Examiner Bella at the personal interview held September 16, 2004, are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute the record of the interview.

I. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1-6, 8-14 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Ueda (U.S. Patent No. 5,900,860) in view of Bravomalo (U.S. Patent No. 6,643,385); and rejects claims 7 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Ueda in view of Chernock (U.S. Patent No. 6,229,524). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

In particular, neither Ueda, Bravomalo nor Chernock, individually or in combination, discloses or suggests an image generating system including at least an object determination means which determines parts objects within a predetermined area in the aggregate object as objects to be changed in display form when an impact is applied to the aggregate object thereby simulating breakage of the aggregate object where at least one part object spatially separates and remains separated from the aggregate object as recited in independent claim 1, and similarly recited in independent claim 9.

The Office Action admits that Ueda does not disclose simulating breakage of the aggregate object where at least one part object spatially separates and remains separated from the aggregate object. However, the Office Action asserts that Bravomalo discloses this feature. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Bravomalo discloses a visual fitness planner that combines image morphing technology, exercise programming, supplemental sales, and motivational techniques into one

product. (See Abstract of Bravomalo.) The Office Action asserts that Figs. 4-7 discloses the above-noted claim feature.

On the contrary, Bravomalo discloses in Fig. 4-7 and at col. 7, line 66 through col. 8, line 22 that a locating grid is used to identify each body part as shown in Fig. 4. As shown in Fig. 5, a grid is overlaid on each body segment image, which is useful in finding the edges of an image of the body part and in applying a percentage reduction to the image. However, nowhere does Bravomalo disclose or even suggest that a body segment is spatially separated and remains separated from the main body. Accordingly, Bravomalo does not disclose or suggest the above-noted features of the claimed invention.

Chernock does not make up for the above deficiencies of Ueda and Bravomalo. Chernock merely discloses a user interface for interaction with video, where, to view a hot spot 60 for a next selectable object, the viewer would press the tab key 6 located on the remote control unit 5 and the next object in the priority sequence. See, for example, Figs. 2 and 3, and col. 5, lines 55-61.

Accordingly, independent claims 1 and 9 define patentable subject matter. Claims 2-8 and 10-16 depend from the respective independent claims, and therefore also define patentable subject matter as well as for the other features they recite. Accordingly withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing Amendments and Remarks, this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-16 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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Date: October 8, 2004

Attachment:

Petition for Extension of Time

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